

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

## THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

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Contents for Week of May 8, 1939. Vol. XVIII. No. 11.

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*Photograph by Melville Chater*

### THE TEAKETTLE GIVES FIRST AID TO RELIGION IN YUGOSLAVIA

Differences in language, alphabet, religion, politics, tribal background, and economic interests make it difficult for the varied racial elements in Yugoslavia to understand one another, and misunderstandings lead to fights. One of the fights finished with the assassination of an Archduke at Sarajevo in 1914, and signaled the start of the World War. Eleven per cent of Yugoslavians are Moslems, following the call of the muezzin to cleanliness and prayer. Running water is required for ritual footwashing, though it runs only from a teakettle (Bulletin No. 2).

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### HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter, Jan. 27, 1922, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Feb. 9, 1922. Copyright, 1939, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.

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### Gibraltar: British Sentry at the Mediterranean Gate

**F**RENCH warships mounted guard at Gibraltar for a tour of duty during Europe's April crisis. The paradox of French guards over a British fortress in Spain calls attention to the importance of Gibraltar to nations who must turn that corner of Europe on the journey between homeland and distant colonies. While much of the British fleet was massed at Malta, French vessels relieved them at Gibraltar.

The Rock of Gibraltar, standing guard over the strait of the same name which divides the continents of Europe and Africa, is one of the world's strategic spots.

#### Studded with Guns

A great rugged finger pointed at Spanish Morocco from the Spanish mainland, at the western entrance to the Mediterranean, Gibraltar is surrounded on three sides by water. On the fourth side, it is linked with Spain by a low, sandy isthmus known as "Neutral Ground," and bounded on the north by what is marked on official maps as an "Iron Fence" and on the south by an "Unclimbable Fence."

Three miles long and less than a mile wide, Gibraltar's towering limestone mass rears its head at its highest point nearly 1,400 feet above the blue Mediterranean. Cut in its rocky sides are the famous "galleries," studded with camouflaged guns capable of shooting five miles across the Bay of Algeciras on the west, as well as across the Strait itself to Africa, some 14 miles away. Still more guns, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns, are even now being set up, according to late news dispatches. Food supplies and munitions are being stored in the heart of the Rock, and men are working on a bombproof tunnel to be used as refuge in case of emergency.

Equally important in the defense of "Gib," as it is familiarly called by those who live there, are the vast water reservoirs also chiseled out of solid rock. Holding hundreds of millions of gallons, these reservoirs are filled by a simple but ingenious arrangement of "water sheds" which catch rainwater as it falls and direct its flow to the reservoirs (illustration, next page).

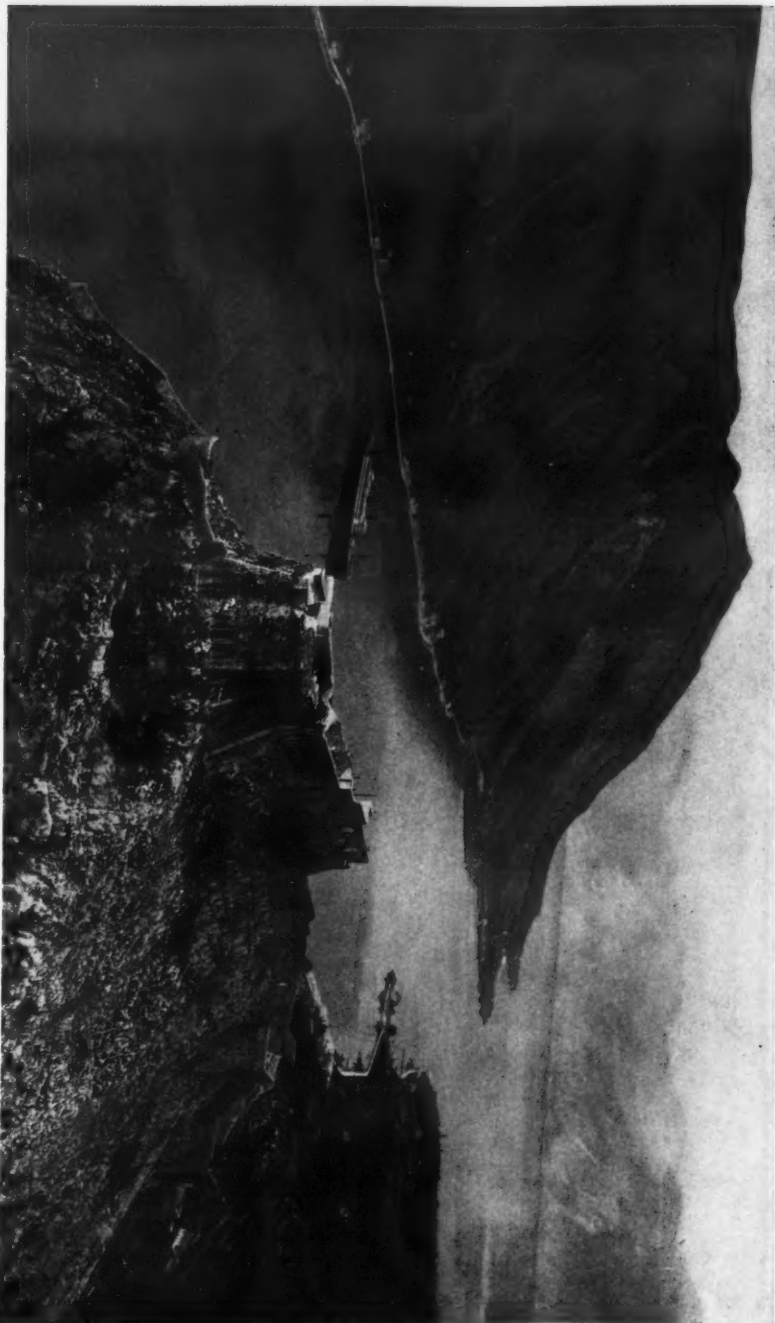
An odd feature of the Rock of Gibraltar is its monkey population. In caves high above the town lives a colony of Barbary apes. Protected by law, they are the only wild monkeys in Europe.

#### England's Since 1704

Gibraltar's history goes back more than a thousand years before Christ. The Phoenicians knew it, the Carthaginians, Romans, and Visigoths. As one of the ancient "Pillars of Hercules" (the other was on the African coast just across the Strait), Gibraltar in the 8th century saw the first Moorish invasion. Its present name is a corruption of the Moorish "Jebel Tarik" (Hill of Tarik) in honor of the conquering chief.

Contested at different times by Moors and Spaniards, the "Rock" was seized by England in 1704. Nine years later it was ceded to Great Britain by Spain; but the struggle for its possession was not yet settled. The most ambitious attempt to regain this territory came in 1779, when the British for four years successfully held the fort against siege by French and Spanish forces.

Today, clinging to the west and southern slopes of the Rock, the cosmopolitan town of Gibraltar shows the effects of a lifetime on one of the most traveled international crossroads of the world. There East and West meet in a racial con-



**GEOGRAPHY MADE HISTORY FOR CATTARO, FORTIFIED BY NATURE**

*Photograph by Publishers Photo Service*

Montenegro, small southern mountain patch of Yugoslavia which fought off the Turks for four centuries, based its resistance on such natural fortifications as the mile-high crags protecting the chief port, Cattaro. Three sheltered lake-like basins, connected by narrow straits, form vestibules between Cattaro and the Adriatic Sea. The lofty fort of San Giovanni is a remnant of medieval struggles—and a modern ship is dwarfed below it. The Romans had a colony here, and named the region for its "Dark Mountains," then covered with thick forests, now almost denuded (Bulletin No. 2).

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### Yugoslavia Is Best Known, Least Understood, of Balkans

THE recent arrest of thirty people at Sarajevo for too riotous a demonstration of their political sympathies made the world recall with a shudder that a shot fired in Sarajevo 25 years ago was the starting gun for the World War. The problems of Yugoslavia's complicated racial mosaic, which resulted in the fateful assassination of the Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand in 1914, are again brought to the attention of an apprehensive Europe.

Yugoslavia is a "big Czechoslovakia" of the Balkans—a war-born country pieced together from the wreckage of Austro-Hungarian and Turkish empires, with new frontiers encircling old neighbors confirmed in the habit of mutual distrust.

#### Orphan King's Realm A Composite of A Dozen Smaller States

"South Slavs" is the meaning of Yugoslavia, the kingdom's name since 1929—a condensation of the earlier title of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. That name was an incomplete roll call of the dozen small kingdoms and provinces enlisted in the new Balkan state. The dominant element was Serbia, including an even older Serbian kingdom sometimes called Macedonia; Yugoslavia's capital now is the old Serbian city of Beograd (Belgrade, the "White City") on the Danube. Other patches tacked on to the Yugoslavian quilt are Slovenia and Slavonia, Dalmatia and Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, parts of Carniola and Carinthia, Voivodina, and the wildly rugged former kingdom of Montenegro in the south (illustration, inside cover).

Before the World War, when Turkey extended across the south to the Adriatic, six governments shared control of the region now collected in the realm of the boy king Peter II, who ascended the throne left vacant by his father's assassination.

Natural boundaries of valley walls have kept these diverse elements of the fifteen million Yugoslavs apart, each group in its own region. Communication is the more difficult because there are only 6,000 miles of railroad in the country's 96,296 square miles of territory. But boundaries of thought have blocked the communication of ideas as a prelude to national harmony. The Slovenes, for instance, have absorbed their political ideas from old Austria, while their neighbors the Slavonians paid allegiance to Hungary. The former were Roman Catholic, the latter Greek Catholic. Compatriots of both, farther south, were Turkish subjects and converts to the Moslem faith (illustration, cover). Although there is a basic similarity among their various languages, mutual understanding is hindered by the use of two different alphabets, the Latin and the Cyrillic.

#### Sent Sculptor, Writer Among Immigrants to United States

Troubled conditions within Yugoslavia, especially before its union under one king, scattered emigrants far and wide. During some years, the number of people bidding their homeland farewell was equal to one-tenth of the entire population. This flood tide of migration washed almost a million settlers up on the shores of the United States, depositing the writer, Louis Adamic, of *The Native's Return*, and sculptor Ivan Mestrovic, who created the heroic bronze Indians in Chicago's Grant Park.

Yugoslavia's contribution to world commerce has of recent years been mainly foodstuffs, grains leading, pigs next. Yugoslavia's pigs play no mean rôle in history, for a heavy duty on swine was one of the factors in the unrest leading to the Archduke Ferdinand's assassination. The wild cherry, called *marasca*, from Dalmatia has traveled far in maraschino products. Eggs, honey, plums, and wines

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glomeration of Greeks, Syrians, Indians, Englishmen, Spaniards, Negroes, Moors, Frenchmen, and Americans. Its civil population is something over 19,500, between "sundown and sunrise."

Sailors and soldiers lend a military tone to the city, dominating a mixture of tourists, business men, engineers, workers—and recently, Spanish refugees.

During the World War this town was the base for 50 U. S. ships and submarine chasers. In normal times, Gibraltar's chief interest is trade and supplying fuel, stores and water to shipping. Nearly 5,000 vessels stopped there in 1936.

Note: Additional photographs and text about Gibraltar will be found in "Monkey Folk," *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1938; "The Pilgrim Sails the Seven Seas," August, 1937; "Our National War Memorials in Europe," January, 1934; "Looking Down on Europe," March, 1925; "Adventurous Sons of Cadiz," also "From Granada to Gibraltar," August, 1924; and "The World Viewed from the Air," insert of duotone photographs, May, 1922.

Gibraltar may be located on The Society's Map of Europe, first released as a supplement to the April, 1938, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*. Copies can be had from The Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters at 50c (paper) and 75c (linen).

Bulletin No. 1, May 8, 1939.

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### COLOR PLATES FROM THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

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A number of separate color pictures from the *National Geographic Magazine* may be obtained from the National Geographic Society for educational use. The pictures are available in packets of 48 sheets and 96 sheets at 30c and 50c a packet respectively. Color pictures of the United States, Central America and the Caribbean countries, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Natural History subjects, the circus, flags, and Indians are included in the list of subjects. A list of these subjects and a blank for ordering may be obtained from The National Geographic Society, School Service, 16th and M Streets, Washington, D. C.

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Photograph by M. Flandrin

#### STRONG GIBRALTAR IS REALLY AS WEAK AS ITS WATER SUPPLY

Knowing that the strongest garrison cannot withstand the siege of thirst, since 1898 the British have been expanding Gibraltar's unique water works. On the steep east side of the world-famous Rock are more than forty acres of sheets of galvanized iron (right of center), to catch rainwater and pour it down the slope's natural 45-degree angle into spacious reservoirs blasted from the rock. The underground storage reservoirs have capacities of hundreds of millions of gallons, sheltered from evaporation and pollution. Also buried in the rock are the gun galleries; some of the newer guns are rumored to be of sufficiently long range to reach Africa, fourteen miles south (off the picture to the left). The mist-softened outlines of Spain form the background, and curve to protect an ample harbor below the hidden west face of Gibraltar's rocky ridge. The dark lines (left) are part of the airplane from which the photograph was made.

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### South-West Africa's German Past Turns Eyes to Future

**F**IVE hundred policemen of the Union of South Africa went under sealed orders to a new beat last month. From Johannesburg they were dispatched to South-West Africa, former German colony in which there have been recent talks of plebiscites and resistance in connection with Germany's demand for the return of colonies.

South-West Africa was Germany's first colonial venture, but after the World War it was placed under the administration of the Union of South Africa. Today one-third of the 30,000 inhabitants of European stock are of German extraction.

Reports earlier in the year from Windhoek, the midland capital, indicated that the natives favor the present British mandate, and that the white population would vote two-thirds for the present administration.

#### Diamond-Studded Coast Pays Half of Country's Revenue

This African territory of 322,000 square miles is much larger than Germany. Its population of European stock is numbered at 30,000, and the native inhabitants are estimated as ten times more numerous than the white.

The sandy shore of South-West Africa is literally studded with diamonds. Along the 850-mile coast, for 30 to 80 miles back from the Atlantic, there is a dreary waste of undulating sand and shifting dunes, but this miniature coastal Sahara is the country's jewel box. Here in 1908, near Luderitz, German railroad workmen discovered diamonds. The gems are supposed to have been washed up by the sea; dredges also bring up diamonds off shore. In 1934, these sands gave up \$5,710,500 in diamonds; in 1935, over twice that sum; in 1936, almost three times the 1934 amount. These otherwise barren beaches yield about one-fifth of the world's annual diamond supply—small, but brilliant and of good quality. Half the country's revenue is paid by the diamond output.

The sand hills from which the jewels are "mined" vary in height from thirty to one hundred feet along the coast, rise to three and four hundred feet three miles inland. Those protected with a sparse growth of vegetation do not shift, but others often move as much as five feet on a stormy day.

The five-mile peninsula protecting Walvis Bay, halfway down the coast, the best natural harbor, is a mile to a mile and a half in width, and is covered with small dunes ten and twelve feet high.

#### Natives Revolted Against German Policy of Extermination

The German governor general managed the natives with such uncompromising severity that the Hereros and Hottentot tribes revolted in 1903. The war lasted four years, costing the Germans several thousand lives. It left the Germans with a determination to develop the country, and the native tribes with a long memory of iron-handed rule.

When Germany took possession of South-West Africa in 1884, a port was created at Swakopmund, 20 miles north of Walvis Bay, to handle the shipment of goods. The Germans also claimed the natural harbor of Luderitz.

Walvis Bay was acquired early by the British, remained a British enclave in German territory, and is still administered separately.

"Walvisch" Bay, as it was originally called from the Dutch word for "whale," afforded the best harbor north of Luderitz for hundreds of miles along the hazardous coast, which was the more threatening because of heavy surf and frequent fog.

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help Yugoslavia's export list to read like a menu. Farming, stock raising, and forestry occupy 85 per cent of the people.

One specialty of the country is the weaving of Turkish rugs, a heritage from the centuries of Ottoman domination. Outstanding carpet makers are Serbians, who accepted Turkish culture and religion, in contrast to the Montenegrins, who never surrendered. Native wools, native dyes, and native pride are woven into the famous carpets of Pirot.

The Romans drove ox-carts over Yugoslavian mountains to transport iron ore, and iron is still a resource of some importance in Bosnia. But lead and copper today are produced in larger quantities, with bauxite (for aluminum) standing next to iron. Salt, the old stand-by, and those new treasures of modern industry are also mined—chrome, antimony, and manganese. The exports include timber and cement. The erratic rivers of Yugoslavia, many of which spend part of their lives underground, proffer great undeveloped resources of water power.

The Dalmatian coast, with its interesting fringe of islands and its numerous archeological reminders of ancient Rome, has been a playground and health resort since the Roman emperor Diocletian retired there and Cicero languished there in exile. Significant fragments of the old Roman empire are the island of Lagosta and the city of Zara, now under modern Rome's rule.

Note *The National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1939, will bring out a story on Yugoslavia, "Kaleidoscopic Land of Europe's Youngest King." For additional descriptions and photographs see "Yugoslavia—Ten Years After," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1930; "Dalmatian Days," January, 1928; "From England to India by Automobile," August, 1925; "Looking Down on Europe," March, 1925; "The Battle-Line of Languages in Western Europe," February, 1923; and "The Races of Europe," December, 1918.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Yugoslavia's Jigsaw Puzzle Coast," week of November 9, 1936; and "Yugoslavia: Mixing But Not Melting Pot," week of October 29, 1934.

**Bulletin No. 2, May 8, 1939.**



Photograph by Hans Hildenbrand

#### ZAGREB IS CENTER FOR CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE

The second largest city of Yugoslavia, Zagreb in the northeast, is the capital of Croatian discontent. Its university, one of the three in the kingdom, was founded in 1874. Peasants of Croatia must sell their farm produce, or go without such essentials as salt and sugar. Their clean willow baskets bring to the market square a colorful array of melons and peppers, and the old-fashioned scales weigh out family-size dishes of beans. The women's bright kerchiefs and red-and-blue embroidered blouses show numerous little circles, to ward off the Evil One.

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### Liège, Birthplace of the Béguinage, Celebrates Canal

**B**ELGIUM, still jittery from its World War experiences, has kept on with preparations for the May 1 opening of the Liège International Exhibition in spite of the high-tension war scare prevailing throughout Europe.

Liège, leading city of Belgium's Walloon south, and third largest in the country, planned the Exhibition to celebrate completion of the Albert Canal, a manufactured waterway which connects the port of Antwerp with the industrial region of the inland city. After ten years of construction, the canal is now expected to convert Liège, the "Birmingham of the Low Countries," into one of the most important inland ports of Europe.

#### Combination of Medieval Charm and Industrial Progress

Liège is the center of the coal-mining industry and of Belgium's armament manufacture, dating back possibly as far as the 16th century. Many other factories—turning out iron, glass, automobiles, bicycles—cast their smoky pall over the city. The first locomotive used on the continent of Europe was built in a suburb of Liège.

In this strange mixture of the smoke of industry and the dust of antiquity, lampposts decorated with baskets of flowering plants flaunt patches of brilliant color in the bright heat of summer. Quaint gabled buildings of stone flank the staircase hill to the Citadel, where a park has replaced the war-time fortifications.

Liège, capital of the province of the same name, was founded about the middle of the 6th century, near the junction of the Meuse and Ourthe Rivers. It is also the unofficial capital of the Walloon country, the French-speaking southern section of Belgium. It is a curious combination of historic charm and progressive industrialism. This city of over 160,000 population, in spite of its hurly-burly of factories and business, still bears the imprint of the Middle Ages.

Liège has been laid waste many times. For years it was ruled by a long line of Prince Bishops who lived regally and maintained large armies. Many times the Walloon-speaking people around Liège rebelled against these rulers. Charles the Bold, last of the Burgundian dukes, staged a bloody massacre there, vividly described in Scott's *Quentin Durward*. Before it became a part of United Belgium in 1830, Liège belonged successively to Austria, France, and The Netherlands.

#### The Béguinage Solves War-Time Problem of Surplus Women

During the World War, its heroic defenders held off the German forces for more than a week. To the stout resistance of Liège, Paris owes much for her freedom from capture during the first months of the War. The French Government recognized the Belgian city's valiant aid with the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

In the Middle Ages Liège was a great cultural center. This tradition of culture is still in evidence. Home of a Royal Conservatory of Art, it fosters interest in contemporary art by annual exhibitions and protects carefully its art treasures of the past. Liège is the birthplace of César Franck, famous composer and organist, and of Eugène Ysaye, the great Belgian violinist, who taught in its Conservatory of Music.

Many Liégeois followed Godfrey de Bouillon and went off to the Crusades. Comparatively few of them came back. Those buried on the battlefields of the Near East left Belgian widows who became a social and economic problem of the times.

Bulletin No. 4, May 8, 1939 (over).

This bay had been annexed by the British in 1878 as an outpost of empire, together with a 374-square-mile strip of the sand waste. There has been no whale fishing in the bay since 1930, though the supply is still plentiful.

Back of the desert strip fringing the coast is an upland veldt, for the most part too dry for agriculture but well suited to stock raising and dairying. Here hundreds of thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats are raised on ranches averaging 25,000 acres. In the northeast corner the climate is tropical, and there grow cotton, tobacco and cereals. The only dependable rivers are in the extreme north and south; between, subterranean streams are tapped for irrigation purposes.

In addition to diamonds, the country exports copper ore, vanadium, butter, preserved fish, meat, hides, wool, lead and tin.

British soldiers took the country from the small German guard during the World War, and the Versailles treaty gave the mandate to the British Union of South Africa. In 1925 a constitution was given South-West Africa providing that the protectorate govern itself by a Council and a Legislative Assembly, but reserving to the Union control of natives, defense, and certain public services. The Constitution recognizes German as a language of the Assembly and of the courts in addition to English.

Note: Additional descriptive material about South-West Africa will be found in "Keeping House for the 'Shepherds of the Sun,'" *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1930; and "Hunting an Observatory," October, 1926.

South-West Africa may be located on The Society's Map of Africa, issued as a supplement to the June, 1935, issue of *The Geographic*. Separate copies may be obtained from The Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters at 50c (paper edition) and 75c (linen edition).

Bulletin No. 3, May 8, 1939.



Photograph by Fred A. Greeley

#### BUT IT'S HOME, SWEET HOME, TO THE HOTTENTOT

Where wood is scarce, the Hottentot has learned to build a domed house, comparable to the felt-covered yurts of Asia's Mongols. This Hottentot family lives at Berseba, near Mt. Brukkaros, site of the National Geographic Society's solar radiation expedition in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution. Branches set up in a circle are brought together in the middle for framework of the hut. Reeds for the strips of matting are gathered from the Great Fish River, one of the few in this relatively waterless region. Women cling to modest styles introduced by German missionaries decades ago. The men are loyal to their foreign-style trousers as long as there is a thread to sew a patch to, or a button on which to hitch suspenders. The low door in the center reveals one of the slender posts of the framework.

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### Ice-Covered Antarctica Claimed by Six Governments

WITH Germany now making claim to 220,000 square miles of Antarctica, explored from one of her whaling ships, five nations and Australia have set up claims for the division of the vast continent that lies under a thick layer of ice at the "bottom" of the world.

Claims on behalf of Norway, Great Britain, France, the United States, and Australia have sliced the Antarctic Continent like a huge pie; but title to some of the slices is by no means clear and uncontested.

#### Claims Rest on Sighting Shores, Marching Inland, or Flying over Areas

When Amundsen, first man to reach the South Pole, arrived there in December, 1911, he claimed for Norway a relatively small area encircling the Pole, with a radius of about 110 miles. Since then explorers who cruised along the Antarctic coast, penetrated the continent a few miles, or flew over previously unexplored regions, have claimed for their countries all the land between certain longitudes extending all the way to the Pole.

Australia claims the largest single slice of the Antarctic "pie." It extends from 45 degrees east longitude, in Queen Maud Land, to Britain's claim fronting on 160 degrees east longitude. France, however, insists on her right to the region from Adelie Land between 126 and 142 degrees east longitude, wholly within the Australian claim.

In January, 1939, Lincoln Ellsworth looked down from an airplane in the same Australian area on 80,000 square miles "never before seen by man," and announced his claim for the United States. The Ellsworth area lies between 74 and 85 degrees east longitude, and 70 and 75 degrees south latitude. Thus, it does not reach the edge of the continent (map, next page).

#### American Claim Named for Woman

Besides the Australian claims, there are two other pie-shaped slices staked out by Great Britain: the Ross Dependency between 160 degrees east and 150 degrees west longitude, and a large area between 20 and 80 degrees west longitude, the Falkland Island Dependencies.

Between these slices tagged by Great Britain are Marie Byrd Land, between 120 and 150 degrees west longitude, which was explored by Admiral Richard E. Byrd; and James W. Ellsworth Land, the area from 80 to 120 degrees west longitude, which Lincoln Ellsworth claimed for the United States when he traversed the region by airplane in 1935.

The Norwegian claims are less definite than the others, but are understood to cover the sector extending from 20 degrees west longitude to 45 degrees east longitude. It is inside this latter sector that the new German counter-claim has been set up.

Note: Descriptions, photographs, and maps relating to Antarctica, and the discoveries and claims therein, are contained in the following: "My Flight Across Antarctica," *National Geographic Magazine*, July, 1936; "Exploring the Ice Age in Antarctica," October, 1935; "Mapping the Antarctic from the Air," October, 1932; "Conquest of Antarctica by Air," August, 1930; "Sailing the Seven Seas in the Interest of Science," December, 1922; "British Antarctic Expedition under Captain Robert F. Scott," March, 1924; and "Amundsen's Attainment of the South Pole," February, 1912.

A map of Antarctica, showing international boundaries, routes of exploration, etc., was issued as a supplement to the *Geographic* for October, 1932. The issue containing this map is out of print, but separate copies of the map are available from The Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters at 50c.

Bulletin No. 5, May 8, 1939.

To provide for them, Lambert le Bègue, priest of Liège, about 1180, invested a fortune in a cloister and a church (St. Christopher) for these victims of a holy war. He is generally considered the founder of the order of the Béguines, and is credited with the establishment of the first of the béguinages—the Low Countries' useful havens for unprotected women.

Béguinages then sprang up all through the Low Countries, Germany, and northern France. A number of them flourish to this day, mostly in Belgium, although Rotterdam and Breda, in The Netherlands, have a béguinage each. Cut off from the rest of the city, surrounded by walls whose huge portals are closed at night, the typical béguinage has narrow, winding streets, rows of quaint, lime-washed houses with picturesque façades, occasional shady courts, shops, market places, a church with several chapels—a veritable city within a city (illustration, below).

When these institutions were started, the inmates—called béguines—retained their property. During the introductory period they lived in the house of a Grande Dame, or Mother Superior, but later enjoyed houses and servants of their own, according to their means. Some béguinages admitted only noblewomen; others, women of more humble birth, and still others welcomed women of all classes. At the close of the 13th century, hardly a community was without its béguinage.

Early rules for administration of the béguinages still apply. Bound by faith and observance of simple rules, the béguines enjoy freedom to receive and to visit their families and friends. With freedom to go about in the outer city, they minister to the sick and needy. They excel in various types of handwork, particularly lace-making and embroidery, whereby they finance themselves.

These islands of serenity in the bustle of present-day Belgium surprise and delight the visitor. Here the traveler experiences a seeming fourth-dimensional transition of time—a backward jump of 800 years within the 20th century.

Note: See also "Belgium—Europe in Miniature," *National Geographic Magazine*, April 1938; "Beautiful Belgium, Restored by Peace" (insert of color pictures), November, 1929; "Through the Back Doors of Belgium," May, 1925; "Singing Towers of Holland and Belgium," March, 1925; and "Races of Europe," December, 1918.

Bulletin No. 4, May 8, 1939.

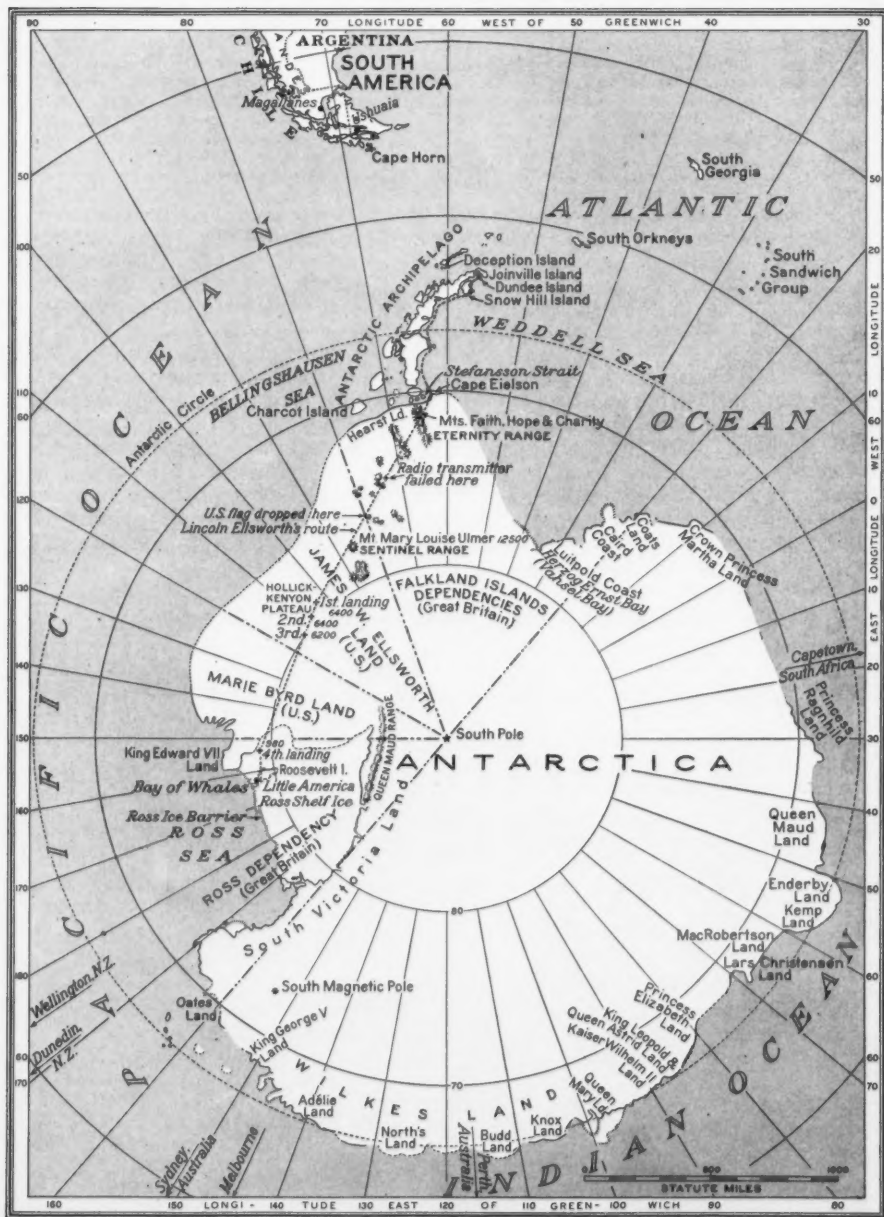


Photograph by B. Anthony Stewart

#### MUCH LACY VANITY GETS A PIOUS START IN A BELGIAN BÉGUINAUGE

Liège started the practice of offering women the haven of a béguinage, a half-convent home in which they supported themselves by communal effort. One of the occupations they adopted was lace-making, still a mainstay of béguinage revenue, as in this institution in Ghent. The béguines form a picturesque fraction of the ten thousand women in Belgium engaged in lace-making, producing such specialties as Valenciennes and Duchesse lace. Their handwork, however, during the placid session with workbasket and footstool and needle, includes knitting, crocheting, and sewing on buttons.





Drawn by Albert H. Bumstead

### THE 20TH CENTURY FOUND A NEW CONTINENT TO CARVE

Lincoln Ellsworth's flight in 1935 (dotted line, Dundee Island to Little America) showed that Antarctica was a spacious continent of some five million square miles, and not a collection of large islands. Earlier United States and British claims are labeled. Some French, German, and Australian claims overlap. Arrows show the direction to New Zealand (left), Australia (lower edge), and South Africa (right), while the tip of South America shows the relationship of that continent to its southernmost sister. Explorations made since the drawing of this map indicate that what has previously been known as the Antarctic Archipelago may be a peninsula of the Antarctic mainland.



